

Students' Parley Denounces U.S. as 'Aggressor'

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ITHACA, N. Y., Feb. 19—

The first National Student Conference on Vietnam adopted a stand harshly critical of the United States early today after an angry walkout by nine pro-Administration delegates who said the conference had been rigged by extreme leftists.

In a clamorous meeting that lasted under 4:30 A.M. the conference voted, 51 to 42, for a resolution calling on the Johnson Administration to stop bombing, cease firing, withdraw its troops and recognize the Communist-dominated National Liberation Front as a "major bargaining agent" at peace talks.

It accused the United States of having caused heavy civilian casualties by the use of "abhorrent weapons." American policy on Vietnam, it said, has been evil from the outset.

"The United States aided the French colonialists, supported a tyrannical regime in the South and responded to protests from an oppressed people with military suppression," the resolution said.

'Branded an Aggressor'

For those reason "the United States has been branded an aggressor throughout the world," the resolution said.

Sponsored chiefly by delegates from the University of Pennsylvania, the resolution, in its original draft, would have "encouraged" the nation's youth to "refuse to fight."

This was deleted when a delegate observed that it "gets pretty close to treason."

It was replaced with a more moderate expression of sympathy for objectors who would rather be jailed than fight.

Bolting the convention were

But 9 Who Bolt Conference at Cornell Call It Rigged by Extreme Leftists

three delegates from Fordham University, four from St. John's University (Brooklyn and Jamaica, Queens), one from Rutgers and one from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Conduct Criticized

They said the conference, held on the Cornell University University campus, did not represent the mainstream of student opinion of Vietnam. They also criticized the conduct of the meetings.

They charged an imbalance of guest speakers. Of 11 listed on the agenda, only three, they said, were supporters of United States policy.

They recalled that a State Department representative had been booed and hissed and that another pro-Administration speaker, Prof. Wesley R. Fishel of Michigan State University, was given a reception Friday night that they called reminiscent of the McCarthy era.

"Is it not time that you made a clean breast of your affiliation with the Central Intelligence Agency?" demanded a Columbia University student of Professor Fishel in what Administration supporters described as the same manner employed by the late Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, Republican of Wisconsin, in asking witnesses to confess their Communist ties.

"I am not now and never have been a member of the C.I.A.," Mr. Fishel replied.

But what especially irked the nine defectors was what they considered the "presumption" of

conference delegates that they could speak for all American students.

"We feel," Howard A. Cohen of Rutgers said, "that to rejoin the conference at this time would give de facto recognition to the farce that this conference is in any way representative of the views of the majority of the students of the United States."

"This has been implied by all announcements of the conference committee, and we feel that we cannot give any credence to this."

Another bolter, John Sainsbury of St. John's (Jamaica), said:

"We have voted with our feet as a last resort to present an opinion in favor of a policy which accepts our commitment to self-determination for South Vietnam."

The others who left were James T. Farley, Kevin Reilly and Tom Frederick, of Fordham, Roy Latham of M.I.T. and Joseph Salvati, Peter Sansosti and Emil Lugo of St. John's (Brooklyn).

They said they had been denied a voice by a rules decision that any statement accepted as a minority opinion of the conference would have to gain at least 20% of the votes.

The walkout came shortly after midnight when a straw vote showed that the pro-Administration resolution obtained only 12 votes against 52 for the prevailing resolution and 45 for a resolution sponsored by the Yale delegation.

The Yale resolution said that the United States had "major responsibility for terminating this war" but was considerably milder in its criticism than the majority position and said that the presence of American troops in South Vietnam was a useful lever in negotiations.